

Education Finance Focus Group

In response to key question:

How can resources be linked to performance goals and student outcomes?

Idea # 1 - Identify three successful schools in Hawaii as models or prototypes of standards implementation, and cost out their staffing and programs.

Why this is important?

To better understand the current resource allocation process and to determine whether adequate resources have been provided for standards initiatives. Schools that are perceived as successfully implementing their Standards Implementation Design within existing resources need to be identified as models for what is working within the system. Measures of success would include not only student achievement, but other important indicators such as staff training and support, parental involvement, and school leadership. Costing out success will involve identifying not only base funding, but the level of new or additional resources committed to standards implementation as well as whether resources were reallocated based upon each school's particular student population.

How will it impact student achievement?

Models of success can be used for others to follow, in hopes that student achievement will be improved using similar resource allocation strategies. With such baseline information, each school can then target resources on their students' greatest needs and know whether to request additional resources or to reallocate from areas where resources are not being used effectively. It will hopefully support collaborative decision-making in making difficult decisions regarding use of resources.

Action Needed to Implement

If possible, it would be best to select schools from within the same complex, to also identify resources being provided within the complex in support of the schools. Improvement in student achievement, graduation rates, need for student remediation, would be a few factors to measure school success. Other possibilities would be to compare the annual School Status and Improvement Reports, School Quality Surveys, tenure of school faculty and leadership, and parental feedback. Consultants working with the Department of Education's Budget and Finance staff would need to work with each selected school to assign cost-centers to school operations for a period of time.